

**Place Select Committee
Chair's Update – March 2018**

Scrutiny Review – Asylum Seeker Services	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations was presented to Committee in March 2018 – Members endorsed the content, though asked that the reference to ‘Hate Champions’ was amended so as not to cause confusion.</p> <p>It was noted that the post-2019 asylum contracts were currently out for tender, with a major change being separate contracts for support and transition. It was hoped that the new contracts would address room-sharing concerns, but it does not look like they will.</p>
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	An initial progress update on the recommendations within the agreed Action Plan will be brought to Committee in June 2018.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Scrutiny Review – Billingham Event Infrastructure/Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF)	
Achieved since last meeting	The agreed final report was presented to Cabinet in February 2018, where all recommendations were endorsed.
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	An Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations will be presented to Committee in April 2018.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Scrutiny Review – Disabled Parking (Task & Finish)	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Additional data requested by Members was provided at the Committee meeting in February 2018, as was feedback from the Disability Advisory Group (DAG), private car parks and Members to the circulated consultation questions – issues raised included concern around new regulations entitling more categories of people to use disabled bays and the knock-on effect of availability for new and existing users, and blue badge holders parking in other areas when disabled bays are full (which can cause problems for other road-users/pedestrians). A summary of the evidence was considered, with draft recommendations agreed.</p> <p>A draft final report was considered by Committee in March</p>

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	2018 which included recommendations to introduce prosecution for fraudulent use of blue badges (on the basis of the Council recouping the costs incurred), and for an audit of the location and suitability of disabled bays (for both wheelchair and non-wheelchair users) to be conducted. Members requested that appropriate training for Civic Enforcement Officers be carried out in order to facilitate the introduction of a prosecution process, and that this should be acknowledged in the recommendation.
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	The agreed final report will be considered by Cabinet in April 2018.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Scrutiny Review – Management of Memorials

Achieved since last meeting	<p>A draft scope and plan was presented to Committee in February 2018, alongside some background information from relevant Officers. Following concerns raised by Members around some of its content, a revised draft scope and plan was considered and agreed by Committee at the March 2018 meeting.</p> <p>The review will involve a health-check of current policy, and will seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the current policy around grave personalisation, maintenance of cemeteries and access requirements for such sites. • Ascertain how the Council communicates with bereaved families in terms of current policy, and how it manages complaints. • Establish how effective the current policy is and determine if any amendments are required.
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	The main evidence session for this review will take place at the April 2018 Committee meeting, which will cover the identified key lines of enquiry outlined within the agreed scope.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	Overview reports for the following services were considered by Committee at the February 2018 meeting (key issues raised by
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	<p>Members are noted):</p> <p>Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) are in the Borough and where are they placed? Noted that the Adult Social Care & Health Committee are currently undertaking a Review of Gambling (which is covering FOBTs), and that Stockton is a lead authority in trying to address concerns. • Concern over the hiring of minibuses by people with dubious backgrounds who may pose a threat to passengers. • Has metal theft reduced since legislation introduced? Yes, but it does still happen. • Positive relationships with local taxi trade. <p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to Thirteen Group's decision to carry out grass cutting and grounds maintenance in-house, it would be helpful for Members to know the boundary lines in relation to who is responsible for which open spaces, high rise and communal areas. • Poor recycling rates disappointing – case for more education? • Receiving more complaints about street cleansing. • Would support developers having to purchase bins as part of new developments. • No recycling bags available in One Stop Shop. • When searching for community recycling sites, Council website directs people to a national site – need to correct. <p>Economic Growth and Development Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant retail space on the High Street a big issue – how do we encourage landlords to free-up space/charge less rent? • Impact of Homelessness Reduction Act? Legislation places a statutory duty to actively engage those at risk of being homeless, with a duty on other services to refer into a Local Authority.
Requests for more information	None.

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	Committee has not considered any monitoring updates since the last meeting. The next monitoring updates are scheduled for the June 2018 cycle of meetings.
Requests for more information	None.

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Next Meetings
Monday 9 th April 2018 (2.00pm)
Monday 14 th May 2018 (2.00pm)